orders were, however, kept in abayance subsequently on 17.11.97 at the behest of the Postal Staff Federations. Justice Talwar Committee report contains recommendations on various aspects of terms and conditions of engagement of extra Departmental Agents and other related matters, requiring indepth examination and interministerial consultations. The processing of these recommendations by the Govt. may be appreciated in this light.

(d) The Charter of Demands on which two Federations of Postal Employees Unions served a notice for indefinite strike w.e.f. 8.7.98 included the demand for implementation of "positive recommendations" of Justice Talwar Committee and rejection of negative as indicated in the notice by the Federations.

(e) Same as against para (b) above. recommendations

Collapse of PCR Telephone System

4474. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Police Control Room (PCR) system in Delhi with crucial telephone No. 100 collapsed and was inoperative for a long spell of time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time taken to restore the system; and

(c) whether any full proof communication system worked out for the police so that the public can contact them in case of crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Police control room telephone No. 100 did not collapse. However some of the junctions were out of order due to cable break down, the details of which are given below:

A total of 50 junctions of telephone No. 100 are working on two underground cables in comibination of 40 and 10 junctions. The former cable had gone faulty due to heavy rain fall on 17.6.98 leaving only 3 junctions in working condition. As such thirteen no. of junctions (3+10) were still in working condition. 17 more junctions were restored on 19.6.98 through alternate routing of cable pairs. The cable fault was rectified on 21.6.98 and all the remaining junctions were put in working order in the night of 21.6.98.

There is proposal to lay additional optical fibre cable to Police Headquarter during the current financial year which will provide reliable communication for '100' service.

Video Conferencing Facilities to the Educational Institutions

4475. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before VSNL and Dot to provide Video conferencing facilities to the educational institutions at as subsidies cost;

(b) if not, whether Government will consider offering the facilities of video conferencing for providing distance learning; and

(c) whether any educational institutions have taken this facilities if so, what is the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURYAKASTHA): (a) Sir, there are no concrete proposals made to DoT/VSNL to provide Video Conferencing facilities to the educational institutions at subsidised cost.

(b) The proposal will be examined on its merits subject to technical feasibility.

(c) In view of (a) above, information is Nil.